

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NASA-01 OES-09 PC-01 CPR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0082

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, LI

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REPLYING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER OF 20 JUNE

REF: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER OF JUNE 20 TO PRESIDENT
TOLBERT; STATE 157812

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HANDED THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO
AMBASSADOR CARTER FRIDAY, 14 JULY TO BE TRANSMITTED TO
PRESIDENT CARTER IN RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER OF 20 JUNE
1978 RELEVANT TO BRIEFING NOTES AND PROPOSALS WHICH THE
GOL HANDED OVER DURING THE CARTER STATE VISIT TO LIBERIA
IN APRIL.

2. QUOTE:

JULY 12, 1978

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE JUST RETURNED TO MONROVIA FROM A STATE VISIT
TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND IT WAS INDEED A
PLEASURE TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF 20 JUNE 1978, RELEVANT
TO THE "BRIEFING NOTES AND PROPOSALS" WHICH I HAD
THE OCCASION TO HAND YOU DURING YOUR HISTORIC VISIT
TO MONROVIA IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR.

IT WAS MOST GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT YOUR GOVERN-
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MENT LOOKS FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH US AND TO
EXTENDING US ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF DEVELOPMENT,
LOW-COST HOUSING IN MONROVIA AND IN THE HEALTH AREA.

THE TEAM WHICH YOU INTEND TO SEND TO LIBERIA TO
HELP US TO COMBAT RIVER BLINDNESS WILL BE MOST WELCOME
AS EARLY AS IT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THEM TO ARRIVE.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THROUGH YOUR OWN

INITIATIVE YOU HAVE ASKED YOUR AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERTAKE A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL USE OF A SATELLITE IMAGERY IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WEATHER PREDICTION FOR LIBERIA. WE HEARTILY WELCOME THIS PROJECT.

YOUR GENUINE CONCERN THAT THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ALL LIBERIANS IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN PROGRAM OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION. WHAT WE HAVE LACKED HAS BEEN THE NEEDED FUNDS TO BRING GREATER IMPACT TO THESE PROGRAMS. OUR EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS DESIGNED TO DISTRIBUTE THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT TO ALL LIBERIANS. WE DO REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS A GREAT TASK, AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL OUR PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO MAKE WHATEVER SACRIFICES WILL BE NECESSARY ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THIS WORTHY GOAL.

WE HAVE ACCORDINGLY SET A NEW DIRECTION FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BY PLACING GREATER EMPHASIS ON OUR PROGRAM OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH IMPROVED HEALTH, GENERAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, IN THE HOPE THAT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF HIGHLY SKILLED AND PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED MANPOWER WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO MEET OUR PRESSING NEEDS, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY

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IMPROVING THE INCOME POSITION OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR CITIZENS.

A NEW THRUST IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO REVITALIZE AND EXPAND OUR FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND IN PARTICULAR OUR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS; AND I ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE QUITE PREPARED TO COMMIT EVEN MORE OF OUR SCARCE RESOURCES TO THIS PROGRAM, FOR IT IS ALREADY A MAJOR FEATURE OF OUR LONG-RANGE NATIONAL EDUCATION PLAN. WE ARE THEREFORE HEARTENED BY YOUR WISH TO BE RESPONSIVE TO OUR EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BRING MORE OF THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT TO ALL OUR PEOPLE, AND WOULD MOST HEARTILY WELCOME YOUR GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

WITH SENTIMENTS OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL WELL-BEING,

FAITHFULLY YOURS

IN THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE,
W.R. TOLBERT, JR.

UNQUOTE.

3. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO AF/W FOR TRANSMITTAL.
CARTER

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NNN

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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
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